

Make it safe. Clean it up. Close it down.

March 16, 2004

Volume 10, Number 5

In case you missed it...

The West Gate is now open 24 hours.

The Rocky Flats Field Office has been renamed the Rocky Flats Project Office.

New traffic routes will be implemented on April 5. Look for more information in the next *Endvision*.

B440 prototype becomes reality

To repack more than 300 55-gallon drums of transuranic legacy waste, a new ventilated sorting table (VST) was designed for B440. The VST will replace current glovebox operations, reducing the extensive time commitment needed to conduct bag-in and bag-out of the waste items.

Confined in a small steel-lined room for contamination control, the VST is equipped with a drum opening air-capture inset, direct lighting, internal electrical outlets, hooks and other tools to aid workers during repack activities.

The hood and contamination cell of the VST have a two-stage double HEPA filtration system. This system design provides workers with a safety protection level similar to a glovebox. Workers maneuver drum contents using the ergonomic material sorting table in an efficient manner wearing anti-Cs and PAPRs.

"The goal is to provide point-source confinement of contaminants while still allowing direct hands-on interaction with the material for both safety and work efficiency. The VST keeps high levels of contaminants off of and away from the workers," said Scott Staley SSOC Radiological Engineer.

Earlier this month, the repack team worked on its first high-dose drum in the VST. The VST provided a time effective way to open the drum, remove the contents and perform visual examination to verify there were no free liquids. Significant radiation levels and contamination were encountered as they opened the bagged contents. Contamination levels, in excess of two million dpm, were detected and successfully handled within the VST, with no contamination escaping the confinement of the system.



Steelworker Bobbie Dockter and SSOC Radiological Engineer Scott Staley conduct a back-draft smoke test on the newly designed ventilated sorting table.

"The work crew did a fantastic job employing the principals of ALARA," said Jeremy Byble, B440 Radiological Safety.

The VST will be effective for conducting most repack operations. However, it is not expected to completely replace the existing repackaging glovebox system.

"Input on work activities from the Steelworkers and RCTs was invaluable," said Staley. "The Engineering support

from Jim Elliott and Brandon Carter also really helped make the whole thing come together."

Also part of the Material Stewardship VST design team were John Brammer, Jeremy Byble, Dave Cissne, Bobbie Dockter, Doug Frenette, Jim Kauffman, Laura Kinstad, Dan Lippincott, Gary Mally, Doug Pretzer, Ricky Pruitt, Bill Santiago, John Weyandt, James Whitehead and Kevin Wimer. - *by Jeanna Blatt*

Tuition reimbursement cap increased

The annual tuition reimbursement cap has been raised from \$3,500 to \$5,000 per fiscal year. This increase is retroactive to Oct. 1, 2003, and applies to employees of Kaiser-Hill, Rocky Flats Closure Site Services and Safe Sites of Colorado. Qualified employees can now

apply for up \$5,000 to cover the costs of books and tuition.

Contact Human Resources or call the Career Transition Center at extension 8400 to schedule an appointment with a career counselor. *by Bill Badger*

Investigation into B991 fire completed, changes to foaming operations under way

Kaiser-Hill completed its investigation into the cause of the Feb. 12, B991 tunnel fire. A nine-member independent investigation team, assembled by Kaiser-Hill President Alan Parker, looked at the circumstances surrounding the fire. The team conducted interviews, document reviews and made a visual inspection of the tunnel.

Results of the investigation were presented to management on March 3. Safety, Engineering and Quality Programs (SE&QP) is currently drafting a restart plan to resume site foaming activities. Structural foaming used at the site to plug substructures prevents the areas below the landscape from collapsing over time, controls groundwater migration and eliminates future access to the tunnel area.

On the afternoon of Feb. 12, personnel observed smoke escaping from exterior wall openings near the foamed areas. They immediately evacuated the area and contacted the Fire Dispatch Center to report the incident.



Full-scale demolition of B991 began on Tuesday, March 9.

Upon arrival, the Fire Department discovered smoke coming from openings leading into Rm. 402. Water was applied through openings in the room. The area was thoroughly examined for other evidence of burning and placed under fire watch for several days until it was determined that no hot spots remained and all signs of smoke were gone. Flames were never observed in the tunnel. Radioactive contamination was not present in the area and workers were not injured or exposed to hazardous materials.

Under the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement, some deep substructures and anything below 3 feet that does not pose a risk to health and the environment can remain in place with regulatory approval. After receiving regulatory approval, foam was applied to the B991 tunnels.

An industrial use structural-hardening foaming compound, BASF AutoFroth™, was used in the tunnels. It is similar to the expansion foam you can buy at hardware stores but much stronger and with a lower expansion rate.

The foaming compound is produced with the mixing of two chemicals during the application process. When the foam cures, it creates heat. It is the chemical reaction that hardens and strengthens the material.

The large volume of foam installed in the B991 tunnels produced high levels of heat that ultimately led to the foam smoldering. The Kaiser-Hill investigative team determined that the foam was installed in such a way that adequate cooling during the curing process did not occur. The team determined that reviewing and stressing correct work practices for foaming applications is necessary and actions are under way to ensure these actions are implemented.

Numerous items and structures have been foamed across the site including the original process waste lines, ventilation ducts, gloveboxes, cargo containers and underground tanks as well as three other areas in B991. Work on process waste lines and other small-scale foaming jobs, like cargo containers, will continue after a rigorous review of the process.

Foaming of larger areas will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with the direct involvement of the manufacturer to ensure the application is appropriate.
by Jackie Powers

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL
Federal Credit Union

Our Rocky Flats branch
will be closing on March 26,
2004. We will be happy to serve
all your financial needs at our
other locations. Payroll direct
deposit is available. For more
information contact Human
Resources.

Main Branch
6855 W. 119th Avenue
Broomfield, CO 80020
303-469-5366
800-828-5666
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Drive-up Building
6850 W. 119th Avenue
Broomfield, CO 80020
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m.-Noon

Virtual Branch
www.yourlocalcreditunion.com

B664 crew's quick response saves life



From left, B664 Facility Manager Cleve Tuck, Sandra Mclin, Fred Vigil, Richard Melton, David Carabajal and Greg Carey. Melton and Carabajal received Level II awards. BEST members Sandra Mclin, Fred Vigil, Greg Carey and Kris Freiberg received Level I awards.

Watching out for your coworkers is a big part of working safely.

During a recent pre-evolution briefing, HRT Richard Melton noticed a coworker who appeared to be incoherent and unaware of his surroundings. He immediately stopped the pre-ev by getting his supervisor's attention.

Supervisor David Carabajal took one look at the individual, called 2911, cleared the area for the EMTs and notified the BEST for support.

By being alert for their coworkers, Melton and Carabajal significantly improved the employee's chances to recover from the what was later diagnosed as a stroke.

750 Pad repack team recognized

750 Pad repack team members opened a drum during repack activities in the east PermaCon and found bottles with markings indicating possible traces of tritium. Responding to this unexpected and out-of-scope condition, the crew immediately closed the drum and secured the operation. After an ISM meeting to identify additional hazards and controls, the team safely repacked the drum. This is an excellent example of the ISM process being used to solve an unexpected condition.



Team members, from left, Larry Hardin, Kim Timmons, Cindy Archuleta, Dennis Mitchell, Gina Sands and Peggy Asumus. Hardin, Timmons and Archuleta received Level II safety awards for conducting the repack. Sands, Asumus and Jim Dennis, not pictured, received Level I safety awards for their support efforts.

List of safety award recipients grows

Safety, Engineering & Quality Programs (SE&QP) continues to recognize individuals or groups that consistently practice safe work habits and are committed to a safe workplace.

Level I awards are given to individuals or groups observed performing their jobs with an eye on safety.

A Level II safety award is given to individuals or groups that identify an unsafe condition and bring it to the atten-

tion of others. This includes use of the stop-work authority and completion of complex and difficult operations or working for a long time without safety incidents or accidents. It also includes safety suggestions that, when implemented, have a positive impact on the job.

Level III awards go to individuals or groups that develop and implement a feasible safety solution to an ongoing or new problem or safety issue. Level III

awards are given when a safety suggestion with site-wide impact is successfully implemented.

Employees may nominate a person or group that is observed taking the extra step to work safely, has safely completed a complex or difficult job or has worked for a long time without injury or safety violations. Contact your project safety organization to nominate a coworker or team. by Bob Darr

B707 crew safely D&Ds J-Module

Two Steelworker's crews, supervised by Rory Roman and Wes Hurst, decontaminated and dismantled B707's J-Module from floor to ceiling.

"The crews worked safely and efficiently despite the many new challenges that we faced finding new ways to do D&D," said Roman, K-H Supervisor.

The crews created extension tools to remove more than 200 feet of inaccessible chain tracks located inside gloveboxes. They also developed complex hoisting and rigging plans for the removal of five furnaces and two gloveboxes, eliminating the need for size reduction. *by Jeanna Blatt*



J-Module crew members from left, D. Van Jones, Doug Hanson, Leon Nepper, Dave Burr, Clyde Bolden, Phil Sheldon, Rory Roman and David Pitman. Front Row: Sue Jones and Lou Pacheco. Not pictured, Rick Blaes, John Flinchum, Sam Duran, Michele Trujillo, David Pfannenstiel, Grover Holmes, Jamie Moore, Denny Taylor, Jeff Hersey, David Martin, Gary Erwin and Wes Hurst.

declassifieds

Automobiles/Motorcycles

1989 Blazer, Tahoe edition, 4x4, 4.3L, V-6, automatic, CD player, new windshield, runs great, very clean, \$1,750. Bob, 303-772-2821.

1990 Lincoln Town Car Continental, white, good condition, \$4,000 or best offer. Noreen, 303-989-3706.

1997 Jeep Wrangler, dark green, 2 tops, 4-in. lift, 33-in. tires, excellent condition, lots of extras, \$11,000 or best offer. Mike, 303-450-9641.

1999 Ford Expedition, loaded, leather interior, great condition, must sell, \$16,000 or best offer. Herman, 303-907-5917.

2002 Honda 600Fi sport bike,

low miles, helmet, jacket, gloves, cover and battery charger included, \$7,000 or best offer. Justin, 303-981-1364.

Miscellaneous

Pool table, 4 1/2-ft. x 8-ft., oak with leather drop pockets, like new, \$1,200; oak church pew, 11 ft. long, \$300. Jim, 303-422-4152.

Craft stove fireplace insert, 32-in. x 24-in. x 12-in., double wall with fan, \$400 or best offer. Robin, 303-279-7349.

Trailers/Campers/Boats

2003 Lund fishing boat, WC-14, 15-hp., Suzuki 4-stroke electric-start outboard, many extras. Cheryl, 303-420-3342.

Declassifieds

- Only Rocky Flats Site employees are eligible to place ads.
- Please use the form at right to submit your ad. Or send your ad via e-mail to Jackie Powers, or via the Intranet (Home Page/News & Info/Communication Division/Declassifieds).
- Ads should be no more than 20 words.
- Check category in which the ad is to be included.
- Home phone numbers must be used in the ads, except for items in the Lost/Found and Vanpools/Carpools categories.
- Site extension must be included (in case information needs to be verified).
- Only one ad per issue (ads will not be re-run unless they are resubmitted).
- Ads for garage sales or personal businesses will not be run.
- Ads for real estate can be placed only by owners and will include the phrase "for sale by owner."
- No ads for guns/other weapons will be accepted.
- Mail or bring ads to T130B, Cube 80.
- Declassifieds are accepted on a first-come basis.
- Deadline is six working days before the desired publication date.
- Employees who submit fictitious ads will be subject to disciplinary action based on company standards of conduct.

Category (check one)

- Animals
- Automobiles/Motorcycles
- Lost/Found
- Miscellaneous
- Trailers/Campers/Boats
- Vanpools/Carpools
- Wanted

Text:

Name (first and last): _____

Home phone: _____

Site extension: _____

envision

is published every other week for the benefit of all Rocky Flats employees. We invite your letters to the editor, story suggestions and comments. The deadline for approved stories is 10 a.m. on the Monday following AWS-Friday.

Vol. 10, No. 5,
March 16, 2004

Editor: Jackie Powers,
303-966-5416
Mail stop T130B, Cube 80
jackie.powers@rfets.gov